

**STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)  
ON EARLY INTERVENTION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

FRIDAY, January 25, 2002  
Doubletree Hotel  
Ontario

**ICC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair  
George Chance, DSS  
Hallie Morrow, M.D., DHS  
Marie Kane Poulsen, Ph.D.  
Cheri Schoenborn, DDS

**ICC MEMBERS ABSENT**

Arleen Downing, M.D.  
Livia Faure-Gault  
Cynthia Jaynes, DADP  
Nancy Lee, DOI  
Cynthia Rutledge, DMH  
Martha Sanchez  
Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.  
Sharon Tettegah, Ph.D.  
CDE Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ICC members, community representatives, staff, and members of the audience provided self-introductions. Dr. Peterson recognized Patty Moore participating on behalf of Mara McGrath, representing the FRC/N-CA, Zelna Banks participating on behalf of Martha Sanchez and Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D., representing the Public Awareness Committee and Cheri Schoenborn, representing DDS on behalf of Part C Coordinator Rick Ingraham. Dr. Peterson welcomed Cheryl Holden of the Department of Developmental who is providing support to the ICC.

Patty Moore recognized Ivete C. Pena, M.D. as the recipient of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities' 2002 Albert L. Anderson Healthcare Professional Award and thanked her for her dedication on behalf of the Early Start community. In addition to Dr. Pena, it was noted that Dr. Mary Lu Hickman and Dr. Peterson have been previous recipients of this distinguished award.

It was noted that there was not a quorum of ICC members in attendance. Dr. Peterson acknowledged correspondence from Cliff Allenby, DDS Director, requesting the California

Department of Education provide representation on the ICC in accordance with federal regulations (34 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 303.601).

Dr. Peterson encouraged anyone interested in serving on the ICC to submit an application to the Director's Office at DDS. The Director's Office will forward all applications received to the appropriate person in the Governor's Office. Copies of the letter calling for ICC nominations and the application form were distributed. The deadline for submitting applications has been extended to February 8, 2002.

The agenda for the March ICC meeting was discussed. It was decided that the meeting dates be changed due to the proximity of religious holidays. Dr. Peterson suggested that Grantland Johnson, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency be invited to the next ICC meeting in Sacramento. The next meeting will also include a special presentation on the Newborn Hearing Screening Program by Dr. Hallie Morrow and others from the Department of Health Services.

### **AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

### **APPROVAL OF JULY 2001 AND NOVEMBER 2001 ICC MINUTES**

The approval of the July and November minutes was deferred due to the lack of a quorum in attendance. This will be postponed to the March 2002 meeting.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Dr. Peterson addressed the potential impacts on the service system following the release of the 2002-03 proposed Governor's Budget. He stated that the budget does recognize the rapid growth of the Early Start program. Dr. Peterson recommended that the ICC work as a cohesive group, maintain parent professional partnerships and work with the Legislature to ensure adequate funding for programs serving vulnerable children and their families.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Cheri Schoenborn reported on ICC staff reassignments. Cheryl Holden will record COTW and ICC meeting minutes and also provide on-site support to the ICC. Barbara Ferriera will continue to provide assistance to ICC members and community representatives concerning hotel arrangements and travel plans. She will also process travel claims and provide clerical support for ICC related activities.

Ms. Schoenborn discussed the existing structure of the ICC meetings and suggested time be set aside in a future meeting to consider restructuring the meetings. Participants have expressed an interest in committees working together and having special presentations open to a wider audience. The frequency, duration and locations of meetings have also had an impact on attendance. Attendance by State representatives has been limited due to travel budget constraints.

DDS staff completed a review of the ICC Orientation Handbook. The ICC Orientation Handbook will contain helpful information for new ICC Members and Community Representatives. It is hoped that it will be released at the March ICC meeting.

The *California Early Start Annual Performance Report 1999-2000* is currently in the approval process. Ms. Schoenborn discussed timelines for development of the 2000-2001 Annual Report. A draft of the ICC section of the report will be available for content review at the next meeting.

Ms. Schoenborn reported on the Early Start budget. The funds being used in the current state fiscal year (FY 01-02) are funds from the federal fiscal year 2000-2001 (FFY 00-01). DDS has not received notification regarding grant award allocation for the FFY 02. Federal funds supplement the general fund and are used to meet additional federal requirements. Federal funds no longer cover the impact of the Early Start program therefore, there is an additional impact to the General Fund. As of this date, the Department of Finance has not requested DDS to make reductions to the various components that meet the federal requirements. DDS is committed to the continued support of the ICC.

Ms. Schoenborn shared a Notice of Request for Public Comment on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its implementation. Two major parts of IDEA will expire on September 30, 2002: Part C (Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities) and Part D (Activities to Improve Education of Children with Disabilities). The Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services invites comments via internet or surface mail by February 25, 2002. The Notice of Public Comment is attached.

#### **FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA (FRCN of CA) REPORT**

Patty Moore, Past Chair of the FRCN, reported for FRCN Chair Mara McGrath on their meeting held on Wednesday. Twenty-two Network members attended the meeting, as well as partners from Parent Link and the Learning Disabilities Association. The Fourth Annual FRCN Training Conference is scheduled for February 25-26, 2002, at the Ontario Marriott Hotel. Conference registration closes on January 25, 2002. Debby Reath, DDS liaison, provided participants with an overview of SB 511, the Family Empowerment Act. The FRCN awaits the release of the Request for Application for the Family Empowerment Centers on Disability. Ten FRCs will be submitting a Letter of Intent to apply. The Letter of Intent is due by January 31, 2002. Seven new FRCs have California Children and Family Commission (Prop. 10) funded projects. There was discussion regarding parent participation on Early Start monitoring teams and the training provided to team members. Ms. Moore recognized Linda Landry for her work in developing the FRCN listserv. The listserv has proven to be an efficient method of increasing communication among Network members. FRCN members were encouraged to continue to nominate candidates to the ICC. Family Voices is currently conducting focus groups around the state and reviewing materials for "family friendly" content, ease of use and "understandability." Four Family Voices/FRC representatives will be attending the national Family Voices conference in Washington D.C.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COTW)**

Dr. Peterson thanked Patty Moore for leading the excellent panel presentation on child care issues. The Committee agreed that the discussion should be continued at the next meeting, with the FSSC taking the lead in organizing information collected. All the ICC committees will also participate in the on-going discussion regarding child care and make recommendations from their specific perspectives at the next COTW meeting.

It was agreed that there would also be continued dialog regarding foster care at the next meeting. The Committee will review correspondence received from DDS regarding recommendations proposed by the ICC.

Dr. Peterson suggested the March COTW meeting also include the development of cohesive strategies to inform the Legislature of the importance of Early Start issues and a discussion of local mobilization efforts.

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE (PAC)**

In the absence of Co-chairs Martha Sanchez and Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D., Zelna Banks reported on PAC activities. Due to interest by other ICC committees, Maureen Wilson from Lanterman Regional Center presented to a large group prior to individual committee meetings. Her presentation covered training and responsibilities for surrogate parents assigned to children in foster care. The PAC considered strategies for disseminating the new referral brochure to those involved in foster care.

Dr. Mary Lu Hickman presented New Jersey's First Step Kit to the PAC. This is a universal assessment kit that could be utilized by physicians in the early identification of autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. Dr. Hickman requested recommendations from the committee on possible uses for the kit and suggestions for potential collaborative funding partners. The committee reviewed the kit including charts and brochures and agreed that some of the language could be useful in developing future public awareness materials.

The PAC reviewed the Kit for New Parents developed by the California Children and Families Commission (Proposition 10). The committee recommended that references to infants and toddlers with special needs be included throughout the kit. The Family Introduction to Early Start brochure and the new referral brochure being developed by DDS could be valuable additions to the kit. The committee also discussed the possibility of including a "developmental milestones" wall chart and baby rattles or bibs imprinted with Early Start information. Various options for recommending collaboration with Early Start to the California Children and Families Commission (Proposition 10) were discussed.

Hedy Hansen reported that she had attended the NECTAS National meeting held in Washington D.C. during February 2001 and that it was a wonderful networking opportunity on behalf of parents. Nenita Herrera-Sioco that the National ICC Parent Leadership Phone Conference focused on recruitment, mentoring and sustaining of parent representatives. "Concerns about recruitment/retention of ICC parents were discussed. For more information concerning parent representation on State ICCs refer to [www.ICCparent.org](http://www.ICCparent.org)

PAC discussed recruitment and retention ideas for parent representation on California's ICC that included a buddy system, utilizing the local FRCs to recruit parents and developing an invitation. Committee members also discussed inviting potential parent representatives to attend an informational meeting on the Thursday morning before the ICC's Committee of the Whole meets. It was agreed that the PAC would host the informational meeting, welcome new parents and provide ICC information.

Early Start events in the month of March were discussed including having an ICC recognition event at the March meeting. DDS reported on the status of the Governor's approval of the Early Start Proclamation honoring March as "Early Start Month."

The committee discussed calendar concepts and agreed to table this project until a later date. They also agreed on a proposed agenda for the next meeting.

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE, PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (QAPPSC)**

Marie Poulsen reported that there were several changes to the agenda. First, the committee joined the PAC for a presentation on Foster Care Outreach provided by Maureen Wilson, Director of Training at Lanterman Regional Center. Second, Ken Freedlander, DDS, was unable to attend the meeting; therefore his presentations on the Parent Satisfaction Survey and Early Start monitoring process were deferred to the March meeting.

Cheri Schoenborn presented her semi-annual update on the Early Start Mediation and Due Process Case Status Report and Early Start Complaint Report. The committee reviewed the report that demonstrated the rate of appeals and complaints was low as compared to the number of families served across the state. The main areas of concern are delay in provision of service, denial of service, and questions about the level of service. The information presented illustrates implications for trends in services, quality of services, and training needs.

The QAPPSC discussed SB 1096 (Ortiz). This bill proposes that the California Health and Human Services Agency contract for an independent study to evaluate existing health and developmental service delivery for children with disabilities from birth through age five years and options for providing improved prevention and early intervention services. Linda Landry informed the group that she has support letter templates and she will provide them to those who e-mail her at [lindajoyla@aol.com](mailto:lindajoyla@aol.com)

The committee discussed the status of personnel and program standards. The committee agreed that completion of the recommended personnel standards should be a priority so a document is available when there is an upturn in the State economy. There was discussion on the use of the ICC's recommended program standards document for several different purposes including policy development, training, service delivery and advocacy.

The QAPPSC requested a follow up report on incorporating the needs of families with children with special needs into the desired results process by Ms. Barbara Metzik, DCE/CDD and a representative from the Sonoma State University CIHS Project.

### **HEALTH SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (HSC)**

In the absence of Mara McGrath, Hallie Morrow, M.D. reported the committee had a presentation by Dr. Leslie Richards, Medical Consultant from Lanterman Regional Center, on the role of the professional when talking with families about their child's disability. The committee viewed a video created by Lanterman Regional Center and Children's Hospital Los Angeles titled "Creating Empathic Relationships with Parents". The video was used as part of a training developed to create connections between providers and parents when talking with families about disabilities. Dr. Richard's work

focuses on critical times or “touchpoints” when service providers and health care professionals can create empathic relationships with parents around issues relevant to a child with special needs.

Dr. John Larcabal from the Children’s Vision Task Force of the California Optometry Association provided information to the committee on vision screening initiatives in California. The HSC continued work on the vision assessment screening recommendations and hopes to have a final recommendation for the May meeting of the ICC. The goal is to use the recommendations for vision assessment screening as a model for recommendations on hearing screening. A discussion developed regarding when assessment results should be evaluated by a health care provider. The HSC will continue discussion about this issue in subsequent meetings.

Dr. Morrow provided the committee with information about changes to the CHDP program as a result of the Governor’s budget. Dr. Morrow provided a handout, *CHDP and the 2002-03 Governor’s Budget: Frequently Asked Questions* (attached). Dr. Morrow stated additional details would be provided in her DHS Agency Report.

#### **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE (FSSC)**

George Chance reported on the FSSC’s recommendations to the ICC regarding child care issues. The FSSC recommends:

- Potential stakeholder groups collaborate with local California Children and Families Commissions and local Child Care Planning Commissions. The FSSC suggested an action item be included on the March agenda to forward an ICC recommendation to DDS requesting the Department send a communication to the statewide California Children and Families Commission requiring that a ten percent subsidy for children with special needs be set aside for all programs considered for funding by the Commission.
- Reducing the *Position Paper on Child Care* to an executive summary for presentation to local planning councils and child care planning coordinators.
- Publicizing the Inclusive Child Care web site and establish links with the WestEd, Sonoma State University web sites and the Early Start Library database.
- The Child Care Law Center should provide training for FRC/Ns on Americans with Disabilities Act and offer the training to the committees of the ICC.
- Expanding the Service Coordinator’s Institute: Foundations training to include child care issues.
- A presentation on inclusive child care by the Child Care Resource and Referral Network at the March ICC meeting.
- Encouraging all members to share child care training materials.

After a lengthy discussion of the FSSC recommendations, it was decided that the FSSC would revisit the first recommendation and consider making a proposal which includes children with special needs in all proposals for funding, including but not limited to, child care and without a capped amount. The goal is to ensure the inclusion of children with special needs in all projects funded by the California Children and Families Commission and accountability for inclusion is required of all grantees.

Dr. Peterson recognized Pamm Shaw for her contributions to improving child care for children with special needs and wished her well in her new position as Director of the Berkeley Head Start Program.

### **PRESENTATION BY CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MANAGED HEALTH CARE**

Herb Shultz, Deputy Director for External Affairs, provided an overview of the California Department of Managed Health Care. Mr. Schultz shared background information on the legislation that created the Department of Managed Health Care. The mission of this Department is to work toward an accountable and viable managed care delivery system that promotes healthier Californians. The Department shares responsibility with everyone in managed care to ensure aggressive prevention and high quality health care, improved efficiency and reduction of burdensome paperwork. Mr. Schultz shared the Department's focus of taking a regulatory approach and how they perform as a responsive regulator. He described the functions of the Office of the Patient Advocate. This Office of the Patient Advocate provides consumer education and awareness and works in coordination with the Department of Managed Health Care to provide an annual "Quality of Care Report Card."

The Department ensures shared responsibility through stakeholder involvement. Stakeholders participate on an Advisory Committee on Managed Health Care, a Financial Solvency Standards Board and a Clinical Advisory Panel. The Department also operates a HMO Help Center to provide complaint response and resolution, legal and medical support, and independent medical review. The HMO Help Center can be reached at 1-888-HMO-2219, has representatives available 24 hours per day, seven days per week and can answer calls in English or Spanish. Translation services are available for 142 different languages. The HMO Help Center averages 13,275 calls per month. Additional information provided by the Department of Managed Health Care is attached. Dr. Peterson thanked Mr. Shultz for his informative presentation and for providing direction to the ICC on managed health care issues.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input provided at this meeting.

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **1. ICC SCHEDULE**

Members of the ICC discussed the March 2002, ICC meeting schedule and the possibility of rescheduling the meeting due to its proximity to religious holidays. It was agreed that the meeting would be rescheduled. DDS staff will research new dates with facility availability and a revised meeting notice will be sent out.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

#### **LEAD AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)**

In the absence of Rick Ingraham, Cheri Schoenborn provided the lead agency report. Ms. Schoenborn discussed the 2002-03 proposed Governor's Budget and its impact on DDS. Overall funding for DDS is proposed to increase by \$131 million or 4.8 percent over the 2001-02 budget. Included within this increase is additional funding for the growth of community services, population growth, as well as increased utilization of purchase of services. There is \$17.2 million budgeted for the increased needs of serving people with autism. Additional funding has also been allocated for the Community Placement Plan, and for Home and

Community-based Waiver reporting. The proposed Governor's Budget for 2002-03 reduces the Department's Headquarters budget by \$3.3 million, or a decrease of 10.4 percent over the current year budget. Significant changes proposed for 2002-03 include reduction of 33 program and administrative positions in DDS Headquarters.

California's Part C program will realize a \$549,000 increase in federal funds. The total Part C grant award for state FY 2002-03 is \$45.3 million. The impact of the program on General Fund is \$4.1 million. The budget information presented by Ms. Schoenborn (attached) does not include the majority of funding for Early Start from the General Fund allocation to regional centers and SELPAS.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) project officer's visit to California is postponed to the spring of 2002. DDS anticipates that OSEP project officer, Rhonda Ingle, will participate in a monitoring visit in one regional center catchment area, as well as attend the May ICC meeting. Plans for her visit will be discussed at the next meeting.

In response to the OSEP review and the need for information about the Part C program, DDS contracted with Xenologix Inc. to conduct a statewide Early Start family satisfaction survey. DDS shared a draft of the survey with members of FSSC, QAPPSC and FRCs. The survey seeks information about services provided, IFSP processes and perceptions about quality services and supports. Ken Freedlander is heading this project at DDS.

Early Start monitoring teams consisting of representatives from DDS, CDE, and the ICC, including parent representatives, are continuing monitoring in regional center catchment areas. The results of full scope monitoring, as well as record reviews, are shared with OSEP as part of their review of California. The South Central Los Angeles Regional Center catchment area will be monitored in January 2002.

Ms. Schoenborn reported that the California Early Intervention Services Act, GC Section 95004 (b) was amended by the Budget Act "Trailer Bill". The new language clarifies the requirement for regional centers to comply with the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act and its implementing regulations, including but not limited to, those provisions relating to vendorization and rate setting, unless it results in delays in, or any cost to families for early intervention services. In such situations DDS may authorize a regional center to use a special service code that allows immediate procurement of the early intervention service. The Schedule of Maximum Allowances does not apply to services provided under this code. To date, five regional centers have received authorization to use the Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services code.

DDS is in the process of making changes to the Early Start regulations (Title 17). The changes apply to the definition of a parent and the assurance that decisions on compliance complaints also address remedies for denial of appropriate service when applicable. The next step is the formal process of releasing the regulations for public comment, the preparation of the State's response, and the final implementation as approved by the Office of Administrative Law. DDS will keep the ICC informed as the process progresses.

Ms. Schoenborn reported on the School Readiness Initiative, headed by the California Children and Families Commission (under Proposition 10). \$200 million has been allocated for



this initiative over a four year period. Local commissions are required to address collaboration with local agencies involved in services for children with disabilities in their School Readiness funding requests. Letters from DDS were sent to all FRCs and regional centers to encourage participation with their local Children and Families Commission Councils on the School Readiness activities in their area.

Ms. Schoenborn shared information from a "Synthesis" meeting held following three stakeholder meetings on Positive Outcomes for Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs. This is a project under the Children and Families Commission contract with Sonoma State University. The purpose of the project is to develop recommendations for the State Prop 10 Commission on how best to invest in the services and supports needed by young children with disabilities and other special needs and their families as well as identify service gaps. Recommendations addressed the following areas:

- Public Awareness on Disabilities
- School Readiness and Early Identification, Screening and Assessment
- County Level Inclusion Resource Teams for Children 0-5
- Family Resource/Empowerment Centers
- State Level Leadership on Child Care Provider Training

Ms. Schoenborn reported on the status of three Interagency Agreements and collaborative efforts she is heading:

- 1) The Recommendations on Early Start Collaboration with Foster Care submitted by the ICC will be reviewed to determine how to encourage stronger collaboration at both the state and local levels between Early Start and foster care. DDS staff will be working with George Chance and DSS staff to determine appropriate revisions to the existing DSS/DDS Interagency Agreement.
- 2) Dr. Maridee Gregory and staff of the Children's Medical Services Branch of the Department of Health Services are in the process of reviewing a draft of the DDS/DHS Interagency Agreement.
- 3) The Memorandum of Understanding with Early Head Start has been completed and is going through the final sign-off process.

Information was provided on all of the upcoming personnel development/training activities. The Service Coordination Institute: Foundations will be held January 29-31, 2002 in Burbank and May 21-23 in Berkeley. The DDS/ARCA Early Start Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Assessment Forum will be held February 21, 2002 in San Diego. The Fourth Annual Family Resource Center/Network Training Conference will be held February 25-26, 2002 in Ontario. The two day Continuing Medical Education Course, Developmental Disabilities: An Update for Health Professional will be held March 1-2, 2002 in San Francisco. The Service Coordination Institute: Advanced will be held July 8-9 at the Holiday Inn Bay Bridge in Emeryville. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Child Care Planning Conference "Leadership, Collaboration & Quality in Research, Policy & Practice" sponsored by the Child Development Advisory Committee will be held February 5-7, 2002 in Sacramento. ICC participants were encouraged to attend. Early Start scholarship funds and training grants are available through DDS' Contract with WestEd, under the CEITAN project. Status of the Scholarship fund is attached.

Ms. Schoenborn provided a report on SB 1096, Ortiz, (co-authors: Senators Chesboro, Kuehl, and Polanco). The intent of SB 1096 is for the California Health and Human Services Agency

(CHHSA) to contract for an independent study to evaluate the existing service delivery system for children with disabilities from birth through age five and to identify options for providing improved prevention and early intervention services. The bill addresses both health and developmental services. The bill appropriates \$50,000 from General Fund and requires CHHSA to apply for federal funds from the Health Resources Services Agency and the California Children and Families Commission to augment state funds appropriated for the study.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS)**

Dr. Hallie Morrow reported on the 2002-03 proposed Governor's Budget and its impact on Child Health Disability Prevention (CHDP). The Governor's Budget proposes a \$120 million reduction in the CHDP budget. \$80 million will augment the Medi-Cal/Healthy Families budgets to accommodate the increases in enrollment. \$17.5 million will augment the Expanded Access to Primary Care Program in rural health and community clinics and provides care for those not eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families that are currently served by CHDP. The budget proposes a \$6 million decrease in county administration funds and the elimination of 10 state CHDP positions. Children's Medical Services will not have the staff resources to provide oversight and monitoring of EPSDT services or for CHDP enrollment and claims processing. The Department is convening a CHDP stakeholder meeting to determine feasibility options. The first meeting will be scheduled within the next two weeks. Interested participants may contact Aimee Yuki at (916) 327-0360 or [ayuki@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:ayuki@dhs.ca.gov) for more information about the stakeholder meeting.

Dr. Morrow provided a brief update on the Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP). Hospital certifications have been reinstituted for participation in NHSP. There are currently 36 hospitals certified with more being certified each week. The Department will be doing a reprocurement of the Hearing Coordination Centers and will be releasing a Request for Proposals to expand the applicant pool. A list of Certified Inpatient Infant Hearing Screening Providers was distributed (see attached).

The Genetic Disease Branch is instituting a pilot project to investigate the feasibility of establishing a new and broader testing program, including the development and evaluation of expanded genetic disease testing using Multiple Metabolic Disorders Tandem Mass Spectrometry (MS/MT). CCS will pay for diagnostic evaluations of infants who have abnormal results from the screening. A copy of the memo describing the policy was distributed and is attached.

CMS has been working on an Asthma project to give CHDP providers additional information about Asthma assessment in children birth through five years of age. The information provides anticipatory guidance on screening requirements and considerations for treatment, referral and/or follow up. A copy of this information was distributed and is attached.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)**

George Chance reported that DSS had received correspondence from DDS requesting to initiate discussions on the review and development of proposed revisions to the existing Early Start interagency agreement. Mr. Chance is the contact person designated at DSS for this assignment.

Mr. Chance reported on the 2002-03 proposed Governor's Budget. The child welfare system in California provides a continuum of services, through various programs, to children who are abused or neglected. The Budget proposes \$3.1 billion (\$1.3 billion General Fund) to provide assistance payments and services to children under these programs.

Spending on children services programs has grown from \$2.5 billion (\$1.2 billion General Fund) to a proposed level of \$3.1 billion (\$1.3 billion General Fund) for 2002-03, an increase of approximately 24 percent since 1998-99. Significant adjustments are proposed many children's services programs. There is currently a freeze on hiring staff, however the Indian Child Welfare Act personnel were exempted.

The Child Welfare Services (CWS) System Stakeholders group has examined the current child welfare system and made recommendations on how to improve the current CWS system in California. The Stakeholders group will reconvene in May 2002. A web page has been developed to provide users with information about what the CWS Stakeholders Group has been charged to do and how it plans to improve the current CWS system in California. The web page can be viewed at [http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/ChildWelfa\\_285.htm](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/ChildWelfa_285.htm)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.